



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **W-0**  
**A1241**

September 15, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor  
*Dean D. Epteddy*  
FROM: *for* Donald L. Wolfe  
Interim Director of Public Works

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40, ANTELOPE VALLEY OPTIONS FOR IMPOSING NEW FEES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BOARD MOTION OF AUGUST 17, 2004, SYNOPSIS 9**

In response to the attached motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the following is a report on available options to impose new fees on new development projects for the purpose of financing expanded water delivery systems and treatment facilities to meet the current and future needs in the Antelope Valley.

#### Background

The water supply in the Antelope Valley is a matter of critical importance to both existing and future customers of the Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40 (District). The District has two sources of water supply: 1) groundwater from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin; and 2) imported surface water from the State Water Project (SWP) through the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK).

Increasing demands placed on the District's water supplies to meet the needs of a growing population and new development in the Antelope Valley occurring in the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, as well as in the unincorporated territory, create a need to finance the development of new supplies and expand the District's water management options.

There are several available options to secure additional water supplies and firm up water supplies during dry year periods to provide for the water demands of new developments.

These options include the following:

1. **Water Banking Fee** - This fee will be used for financing In-Lieu Programs within the valley to use SWP water instead of groundwater for irrigation, developing surface storage and groundwater recharge facilities, and drilling new wells with the needed infrastructure to allow the District to inject AVEK treated water when it is available during wet and low demand periods and extract it during high usage and dry periods.
2. **Water Supply Acquisition Fee** - This fee will be used to purchase additional SWP entitlement or transfer water supplies from other sources to the Antelope Valley basin during dry periods.
3. **Water Stewardship Fee** - This fee will be used to finance the costs of constructing a reclaimed water distribution system to utilize future tertiary treated water from the County Sanitation Districts' existing sewage treatment plants. Funds collected from this fee also may be used for participating in future desalinization projects.

Working closely with AVEK, the Cities, and other interested parties, we will continue to fine tune and more fully develop these options along with the development of appropriate business strategies that could be employed to meet the water demands of new development projects and report back to your Board with recommendations.

County Counsel has reviewed and concurs with the options outlined in this report.

GE:nm  
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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
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LD WWSM  
A1241

County Counsel  
Interim Director of Public Works

At its meeting held August 17, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

"Water supply in the Antelope Valley is a matter of significant and growing concern, given the limitations of the area's groundwater and the consequent reliance on imported water supplies and water treatment facilities. As new development takes place and the population continues to grow, the Antelope Valley increasingly faces the possibility of water supplies that may be inadequate to meet the needs of its residents."

Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Antonovich and on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Antonovich being absent), the Interim Director of Public Works and County Counsel were instructed to report back to the Board within three weeks on options available to the County to impose new fees on new development projects for the purpose of financing expanded water delivery systems and treatment facilities to meet the current and future needs in the Antelope Valley.

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Copies distributed:  
Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer